
Division Overview

- Pending matters of significance
 - The Nevada Department of Agriculture's ((NDA) rebuilding of the Livestock Inspection Program, in accordance with the Livestock Inspection Program Business Plan, and budget was presented and approved at the December 9, 2021 Legislative Interim Finance Committee meeting.
 - Adoption of the language revisions to Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 564 and 565 were approved at the December 21, 2021 Legislative Commission meeting.
 - Revisions to the original proposed language in NAC 571 have been drafted and released. The public survey and small business impact statement have been completed. Scheduling of the first public workshop is in process for March.
- Partnership activities
 - USDA-APHIS
 - NDA staff continue working in conjunction with USDA-APHIS in performing and furthering Nevada's Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) plan.
 - 2021 third quarter updates were completed and submitted to USDA-APHIS.
 - Staff have submitted 2022 applications to USDA-APHIS for ADT and umbrella agreement funding.
 - Nevada participated in and received confirmation of successful completion of the USDA-APHIS VS Trace Performance Measures for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 cooperative agreement periods.
 - Wild Horse Connection (WHC)
 - The NDA renewed the WHC non-exclusive cooperative agreement in August 2021 for the management of Virginia Range feral/estray (VRE) horses. FY22 calls to date total: 538.
 - Due to horses straying from outside the boundaries of the Virginia Range area in Fernley, WHC is working with city, county, and state agencies to relocate the horses back within the boundaries, as well as future preventative fencing projects.
 - WHC is also currently working with city, county, and state agencies in the Reno area to address possible new fencing projects.
 - WHC reports 27 horse versus vehicle crashes so far in 2021. There were 46 horse versus vehicle crashes reported in 2020. This data does not include the Fernley or USA Parkway areas.
 - Relocations: 66 horses have been relocated from various urban areas and locations outside of the Virginia Range where the horses have strayed. These horses were relocated to less urban/populated areas of the Virginia Range.
 - American Wild Horse Campaign (AWHC)

- The NDA and AWHC third-year non-exclusive cooperative agreement is valid through April 30, 2022. The NDA continues to receive monthly reports from AWHC covering the VRE horse fertility program. Monthly reports show that AWHC has administered fertility control vaccine to a total of 735 individual mares with 749 doses (141 doses given as a primer and 608 doses as a booster) for FY22. The AWHC database has been updated to include 3,077 individually identified horses located in the Virginia Range.

Program Updates

- Commercial Feed
 - This program has 448 registered and active accounts for FY22.
- Livestock Enforcement
 - NDA's 4 Agricultural Police Officers have dedicated their time toward the following duties during FY22: 65 livestock investigations, 68 follow up investigations; 5 animal health investigations; 759 animals quarantined that were diverted from CVI and entry permit destination to a cutting event; 307 traffic stops; 57 warnings issued (1 livestock, 26 brand and 30 animal health); 6 citations issued (4 brand and 2 animal health); 2,104 phone calls; 554 administrative hours; 55 strays; 8 estrays; 430 brand inspections; 152 training hours; 10 VRE responses; 11 livestock in roadway responses; 5 livestock highway kill, 3 livestock railroad kill; 51 agency assists; 1 crashes with livestock; 2 vehicle crashes; 11 livestock in roadway responses; 61.5 hours equipment maintenance.
- Livestock Identification
 - Staff have completed 9,595 brand inspection clearance certificates for a total of 349,397 animals, including the public livestock auctions.
 - Brand inspectors have worked 9,237 hours and traveled 197,594 miles performing brand inspections.
 - Division staff renewed 73 brands, approved 200 new brand applications (20 pending) and transferred 67 brands.
 - Staff have received 2,590 livestock assessment filings for 2021.
 - Staff have issued 4,393 livestock movement permits.
 - 4,828 Livestock Assessment letters for 2021 were sent out.
 - 95 agriculture licenses for FY22 have been issued.
 - The Sparks office and program staff have received more than 150 phone calls or emails relating to the VRE horses since July 1, 2021.
- Predatory Animal and Rodent Control (PARC)
 - PARC staff have provided technical assistance, non-lethal predator recommendations, and removal of predators where required across the state throughout FY22. The primary species of predatory animals addressed during the year includes coyotes 56% and ravens 43%. The remaining 1% was equally represented by mountain lions, striped skunks, and badgers and a feral dog.
 - Staff provided public outreach to 155 individuals or businesses since July 1, 2021. 6 samples for testing were taken from predatory animals during this time.

- Agricultural product losses verified by staff consisted of 59 lambs; 9 adult sheep; 8 calves, 2 horses and 10 chickens that were killed during the reporting period. Additionally, feral swine caused damage to 3 acres of alfalfa.
- Veterinary Medical Services
 - For FY22, the Animal Disease Laboratory (ADL) has performed 5,403 procedures accounting for 22,104 tests and/or services to date.
 - In addition, the ADL provided annual Brucellosis surveillance testing for the dairy industry by performing 468 Brucellosis tests.
 - In January, the ADL technical staff successfully completed proficiency testing for Brucellosis testing. There are currently four staff members certified by USDA-APHIS.
 - The ADL technical staff members successfully completed proficiency testing in rabies testing through the Wisconsin State of Laboratory Hygiene Proficiency Testing.
 - The ADL Supervisor completed two inspections of Nevada veterinary practitioner laboratory sites who conduct Trichomoniasis cultures. Both sites also completed the NDA/ADL issued proficiency testing.
 - Elko laboratory equipment previously placed on hold during the pandemic has been reinstated. The equipment will support molecular testing efforts for Trichomoniasis testing in the region, in conjunction with filling of the Microbiologist III position.
 - The ADL hosted the Truckee Meadows Veterinary Nursing Program Class of 2022 this year. On a weekly basis, a total of ten students visited the site. The ADL's Veterinary Diagnostician, Laboratory Supervisor and Microbiologists provided outreach and education to each student. The students were provided training on topics including disease traceability, state and federal regulations, laboratory testing procedures and zoonotic diseases.
 - The ADL completed a laboratory information systems server upgrade in November 2021. This project was federally funded through USDA.
 - The ADL Supervisor continues to work with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) on a project related to data modernization. The goal of this project is to improve real-time surveillance of rabies in animals; to inform disease emergence and spread; and to improve Electronic Laboratory Reporting (ELR) surveillance work and use cloud-based processing approaches and storage via the APHL Informatics Messaging Services (AIMS) environment to allow a secure, direct connection to CDC program areas. The cost to upgrade the current laboratory information management system and update electronic reporting is federally funded.
 - The Veterinary Diagnostician and State Veterinarian attended the 64th American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) and 125th United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) annual conference. The conference addressed the latest issues in animal health, provided the latest research and information in disease eradication and control, and provided networking opportunities with federal and state animal health officials and other leaders in animal agriculture. Travel costs were federally funded by USDA.

- Through the implementation of new biopsy techniques and extensive outreach, staff ensured that the NDA has successfully met Nevada’s sampling requirements to maintain Scrapie Consistent State Status within the National Scrapie Eradication Program.
- Investigations involving Trichomoniasis infected and exposed herds continue, including additional multi-state investigations. As of February 16, 2022, six (6) premises are under Hold Orders for Trichomoniasis.
- Quarterly, routine swine scrap feeding inspections continue as required per state and federal regulations for two licensed facilities.
- Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus (RHDV2) investigations are ongoing, with a total of 8 counties with detections. A new, United States manufactured RHDV2 vaccine has been granted Emergency Use Authorization from USDA-APHIS Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB) and has been conditionally authorized for shipment to and administration by, licensed Nevada veterinarians.
- State Veterinarian continues work with One Health partners and consultations with Nevada veterinarians regarding Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome-Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) in accordance with CDC recommendations.
- Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) 840 and OCV tags continue to be issued by the Department, in coordination with USDA-APHIS to support animal disease traceability. An additional allocation of tags has been approved for Nevada, and tags will be issued at no charge to veterinarians (OCV and 840) and producers (840) upon request, while supplies last.
- State Veterinarian continues to work in conjunction with local law enforcement and animal control authorities on animal investigations, including disease investigations involving livestock and public health.
- Investigations into illegal animal imports continue, including multi-state investigations.
- State Veterinarian continues to work with industry partners and USDA-APHIS on disease investigations, including Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) and reported zoonotic disease outbreaks or investigations.
- State Veterinarian attended a table-top exercise in disease outbreak management, in coordination with state and federal partners.
- State Veterinarian completed part 1 of 2 training courses in regulatory official tuberculosis testing.
- State Veterinarian continues to attend meetings with USDA-APHIS Veterinary Services (VS) and State Animal Health Officials regarding African Swine Fever (ASF) detections in the Dominican Republic and Haiti.
- State Veterinarian continues to communicate with USDA-APHIS VS and other State Animal Health Officials following the recent detections of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), including the first detection in a commercial flock in the U.S. since 2020, as well as recent detections in two additional states.
- Dairy/Processing/Auditing
 - The Dairy program purchased new automation to support antibiotic testing. This project is supported and funded by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

- The Dairy Program was awarded grant funding for equipment replacement through FDA. This grant funding provided resources for upgrading of a microscope, water baths and an antibiotic analyzer.
- The Dairy Program was awarded grant funding through FDA to support ongoing training and required continuing education.
- The Dairy Microbiologist IV position in Sparks has been filled. This new staff member has already participated in required proficiency testing with FDA.
- One program staff member attended the Dairy Ingredients Seminar hosted by the American Dairy Products Institute. Travel was grant funded by FDA.
- Four program staff attended the 52nd Annual Dairy Practices Council (DPC) Conference funded through an FDA grant.
- One staff member completed additional virtual training, also funded by a grant through the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO)
- Staff worked to expeditiously complete an investigation to remove a milk product from the consumer market, following routine testing that indicated a specific lot was ineffectively pasteurized.
- Inspection staff conducted 22 food manufacturing/processing facility inspections, 3 reinspection's, 34 dairy farm inspections and 20 reinspections.
- Of the 14 milk pasteurizers in the state, 26 total equipment tests were conducted.
- 25 warning and compliance notifications were issued.
- 7 complaints have been received and investigated.
- Inspectors conducted 8 single service facility inspections.
- Inspection staff have collected 376 milk samples and 39 water samples.
- Inspection staff evaluated 6 milk plant samplers and 8 bulk milk hauler sampler/weighers.
- Inspection staff conducted 5 plant/farm ratings, and 1 lab evaluation, as well as 8 single service facility inspections.
- Inspection staff completed 17 milk tank truck inspections.
- 27 consumer inquiries were investigated.
- Staff completed 40 store checks for illegal products.
- Staff obtained 400 blood samples for Brucellosis testing.
- Inspection staff completed 2 Food Safety Plan reviews and 4 label reviews.
- 2 staff members completed FDA Pasteurization training.
- Following training and evaluation, an additional staff member passed certification to become a Delegated Sampling Surveillance Officer (DSSO).
- Auditors conducted retail price surveys and general store check investigations for 253 locations in the southern and northern marketing areas.
- Audit staff have completed 21 investigative, remittance and close out audits to date for FY22. Audit reviews yielded \$21,865 in remittances due and late fees of \$2,186 were collected.
- 9 new applicants registered as Distributors due to the field investigations completed through the dairy product auditing program.
- Dairy Distribution Program currently has 236 licensee accounts.

Industry Impact

- Dairy Program Audit Services and Product Investigations presentation by Ruscilla Twyford, Auditor III

